

"Wanted: Used Talents!"

Text: Matthew 25:29, "For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance."

(Read wants out of newspaper.)

I think this is a good example of what is wanted in the different fields of employment and that is experience. And experience indicates that the person has talents that have been used and cultivated and have made that person desirable ~~by~~ in industry. It also goes without saying that a person who is experienced is more valuable to his employer, and thus commands a better salary.

The story of the master entrusting his property to his servants is a story that everyone who calls himself a Christian, must take very seriously. ~~It~~ ~~xxxxxxkxxxxxxk~~ To begin with, the talents involved in the story were not really coins or money, but were a weight instead. A talent of silver was worth approximately \$576 dollars. The man who received five talents then, received \$2880 dollars, the man who received two talents received \$1152 dollars, and the one talent man received \$576 dollars.

An interesting thing about this story is the question, "Who was the one talented or useless servant portrayed in the story?" William Barclay says that it was the Scribes and the pharisees to whom Jesus was referring. ~~It~~ ~~this is the case when we can see~~

The Scribes and Pharisees were people who strove to keep the letter of the law exactly as it was. Any change from this, or failure to follow it in this manner was heresy to them. We have many Scribes and Pharisees ~~xxxxxx~~ among us today. These are the people who are given talents by God and do not use them, or refuse to use them. Their action is the equivalent of digging a hole and burying the talent in the ground.

This parable also tells us that God gives different gifts to different people. It is never, how much talent a man has, but what he does with it. God never expects us to do things we are incapable of doing, nor does He require us to perform any act which we are unequipped to perform. But He does expect us to use our abilities to the fullest. He does require that

we use our abilities to the fullest. He does require that our talents be used for His honor and glory.

(Illustration of Adam Clark, English theologian)

Perhaps this is what made this man the great thinker he was, or what gave him the incentive to use his abilities in the proper way. He used his talents as best he could and he succeeded.

But this parable also points out one further thing, and that is, the reward of work well done is more work to do. Jesus never said that you are to serve me for only a three year period, or for one year in my Church School. But He said "take up your cross and follow me." Have you ever known people who felt they only needed to serve God for a limited time? I had one woman in a church I served become very indignant when I suggested she continue to serve in a certain capacity. She very firmly and forcefully informed me that she had done all she was going to. She had worked in the Church School for a three year period and now it was someone else's turn to work. If we looked at our service to the Lord in this light, I dread to hear what our Lord is going to say to us when we come to the day we stand before Him and He pronounces His condemnation on us. He will say, "Depart from me you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." And you will find this recorded a little later in the same chapter we have used for our scripture and text. I do not mean to imply that our Christian service and witness will be easy. It will be difficult at times, and yes, even discouraging because we will be beset with the trials and problems of life, as well as becoming confronted from the wiles of the devil. But through the strength and the power that comes from God through prayer and seeking His guidance we can overcome all of this.

But you see our service for the Lord is for a lifetime. This does not mean that we must serve in the same capacity year after dreary year. But it does mean that after we have served a term on the Church Council, that we move out and work in another area. We each are given different gifts from God. We do not all possess the same abilities, and this is indeed fortunate.

This, is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT SUNDAY November 10, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
GREG BOSKO, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE LORD IS MY LIGHT" PSALM 27
"PRELUDE ON 'MELITA'" DYKES

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 30 "COME, WE WHO LOVE THE LORD"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 25: 14-30

HYMN No. 256 "LORD, SPEAK TO ME"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "THE PEACE OF GOD"

MARTIN

DEDICATION OF UNDER SHEPHERDS

BUDGET PRESENTATION

NOMINATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

ANTHEM: "THIS IS MY COUNTRY" JACOBS - CHOIR
SOLO - VON MALONEY

SERMON: "WANTED: USED TALENTS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 259 "BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN GIVEN

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN MUCH"

*ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MARCHE HEROIQUE" STICKLES

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. ROY PFLUGH IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. RAYMOND COVERT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARB VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 205.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. W. W. PFABE

THOSE NOMINATED FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD FOR ELDER ARE:

ROBERT BASEHORE, AND GENE STEPHENSON. FOR DEACON:

PAUL PFABE, DON KENNEDY, JOAN MASTER AND WILLIAM PFLUGH.

TODAY - SHORT MEETING WITH ALL THE UNDER SHEPHERDS IN THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP.

THE UNDER SHEPHERDS WILL VISIT YOU IN YOUR HOMES TODAY OR SOMETIME THIS WEEK. PLEASE MAKE THEM WELCOME.

WED. - NOV. 13 - 10:30 A.M. - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE.

NEXT SATURDAY - NOV. 16 - 6:00 P.M. - THE YOUTH

FELLOWSHIP WILL HAVE A SWIMMING PARTY AT THE YMCA.

EVERYONE IS TO MEET AT THE Y. THEY WILL GO TO THE HOME

OF MR. & MRS. RAY COVERT, 127 WHITE OAK DRIVE,

MEADOWOOD. PARENTS CAN PICK UP THE YOUTH AT 9 P.M.

THURS. - NOV. 21 - BUTLER AREA LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

WILL HOLD THEIR FALL MEETING AND DINNER AT ST. PAUL'S

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AT CONNOQUENESSING AT 6:30.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ROBERT TAIT, J. W. HARMON,

AND PAUL PFABE.

TO WALK IN THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL MEANS TO LET CHRIST POSSESS US WHOLLY. AND THOSE WHO WALK IN THIS BLAMELESS WAY ARE BLESSED.

Welcome visitors; sign cards/book

BIOGRAPHY MARY KRAVER 9:30 THURS.
ANNIE DON EUGENE KENNEDY 10:30 THURS.
KATHY FEDER - 17 THURS. SEND ENDS

Wouldn't choir sound horrib if all sopranos:
Or all bass?
Need blend bass, sop, ten, alto make beautiful
Need ushers, alcolytes, preachs/teachs/asst teach
workers all kinds run ch.

(Illustration fingerprints)

D U ever figure U unique?

Ask Paul Pfabe bout fingerprints

This way we are/all unique/each spec G eyes

Alway remem very few A. Lincoln/Shakespeare/Edison

Most us will B unknown/unheralded in world,

therefore, play import role G's plan

Up 2 each us determ where/how fit in G's plan

(Illust. P. Rees, and Sangster)

Most us 1 tal peop

But this no mean we ~~xxxxx~~ less import any1 else.

In orchest take all instruments make symph produce
beautiful music.

But 1 instr out tune create havoc/disrupt all

So with us, must blend tals 2gether create harmon
beauty can have Christ's church

(Illust. wealthy girl, consec 2 Xp.)

God calling those B follow His Son from His hvnly
classified ads,

"Wanted: Used Talents!"

Will U apply 2day?

" " join ranks those employ G in His work?

" " add your tals, however small, feeble they
B 2 work 4 ch of Js Xp?

Pi J about/ask G lead direct what should do.

"Wanted: Used Talents!"

Text: Matthew 25:29 "For to everyone who has will
more be given, and he will have
abundance."

(Ref' want-ads from newspaper.)

Thl good examp what wanted fields employ/that exper
Exper indic pers has talents used/devel/cultiv
makes pers desirable industry

Per w/exper more valu employ/better salary

Parable Js told scrip every Xpian take seriously

Teletns not coins but weight.

Talent silver 576, 5 tal 2880/2tal 1152/1 tal 576

Who 1 tal & useless serv?

Wm Barclay, Pharisee/Scribes

Sc/phars keep letter law

Any change from this, heresy

Have many sc/phars 2day

These peop tal from G not use/refuse use

their action simil dig hole, bury tal ground

This para tell G give diff gifts diff peop

Never how much tal man has, but what does with it

G never expec us do thing we incapa do

nor does require perform act we unequipp perform

But G does expect use abilis fullest

" " " require use talents give us

Talents for His honor, glory

(Illust. Adam Clark)

Perhap this made him great think & gave incent

use tals best could, succeeded

This para pt 1 furth thing,

that is, work well done/more work 2 do.

Js no say you work 3yrs, 1yr

He say, "Take cross, follow me."

Have U ever know peop feel only need serve G short

1 wom tell me, "worked 3yr; now some1 else turn."

If we look serv this lite, G say when stand B4 Him

"Depart from me you cursed, into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels."

This record later on same chap as scrip

Xpian serv & withn no easy task, I no imply this

Do not mean serv same dreary job yr after yr

Do mean serv, certain area, move another

We each given diff gifts from G

We no possess same things, this fortunate

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.